

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 TRIPOL 00043 101555Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----106396 101621Z /46
R 101320Z JAN 78
FM AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5017
INFO AMEMBASSY TUNIS

S E C R E T TRIPOLI 0043

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-2 (IMP DET)
TAGS: PFOR, TS, LY
SUBJECT: TUNISIAN CABINET CRISIS

REF: TUNIS 0073

1. WE FOUND HABIB JR'S ACCOUNT OF LIBYAN MANEUVERING AND MACHINATIONS MOST FASCINATING. THERE IS LITTLE DOUBT THAT QADHAFI WILL SEEK TO MANIPULATE TUNISIAN POLITICS TO HIS INTEREST AS HE PERCEIVES A WEAKENING OF THE POLITICAL STRUCTURE. SCHEME AS OUTLINED CERTAINLY SEEMS QADHAFI-LIKE IN CONCEPTION AND WILL LIKELY BE SLOPPILY LIBYAN IN EXECUTION.

2. SURPRISINGLY LIBYAN MEDIA HAS REMAINED LARGELY SILENT ON RECENT CHANGES IN TUNIS WHICH MUST BE REGARDED HERE AS MAJOR IF TEMPORARY SETBACK. JUST AS EARLIER LIBYAN MOVES TO IMPROVE RELATIONS WITH TUNISIA PROBABLY STEMMED FROM CONCERN OVER EGYPT, PRESENT CAUTION IS ALSO PROBABLY DUE TO OVERWHELMING LIBYAN PREOCCUPATION WITH EGYPTIAN/ISRAELI NEGOTIATIONS. QADHAFI NO DOUBT PREPARED TO BIDE TIME WITH TUNISIA SINCE CURRENT TUNISIAN POSITION ON SADAT SUFFICIENTLY IMPRECISE AS TO BE UNWORRYING TO HIM.
CARLE

SECRET

NNN

Message Attributes

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